Message Text

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UNCLAS ATHENS 2154

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR, GR, TU

SUBJECT: MEDIA COMMENTARY ON THE MONTREUX SUMMIT

REF: ATHENS 2104 (DTG 1724Z 14MAR78)

1. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON THE MONTREUX SUMMIT APPEARED IN THE GREEK PRESS DURING THE PAST TWO DAYS. YESTERDAY (MARCH 14) ULTRA-CONSERVATIVE ESTIA WAS CRITICAL OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS FOR HAVING EXPRESSED SATISFACTION OVER THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT. GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS HAVE BEEN PLACED ON THE BARGAINING TABLE, UNCLASSIFIED

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THE EDITORIAL ARGUED, AND THE DOOR WAS OPENED FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS TO TAKE PLACE WHICH WOULD PROBABLY BE DETRIMENTAL TO GREECE. TODAY ESTIA CENSURED THE PRIME MINISTER FOR CALLING THE MEETING A SUCCESS WITHOUT EXPLAINING WHY. EXTREME RIGHT ELEFTHEROS COSMOS COMPLAINED THAT THE LACK OF INFORMATION ABOUT WHAT HAD ACTUALLY TRANSPIRED BETWEEN THE TWO LEADERS DURING THE ENCOUNTER MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR GREEKS TO FORM ANY CONCLUSIONS ABOUT

THE MEETING. INSTEAD, COSMOS UNDERLINED, PUBLIC OPINION WAS FORCED TO RELY ON SECONDARY (FOREIGN) PRESS SOURCES TO GAIN EVEN A GLIMPSE OF WHAT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

- 2. LIBERAL TO VIMA ALSO ATTACHED THE "SECRECY" SURROUNDING THE SUMMIT MEETING. IT MAINTAINED THE OPPOSITION WAS JUSTIFIED IN VOICING CRITICISM BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT INFORMED THE PEOPLE. COMMUNIST RIZOSPASTIS STATED THAT BECAUSE OF THIS SECRECY THE GREEK PUBLIC WAS UNAWARE OF WHAT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY CARAMANLIS AND ECEVIT. HOWEVER, IT CONTENDED, ECEVIT'S COMMENT THAT GREECE AND TURKEY SHOULD BE LEFT TO WORK THINGS OUT BY THEMSELVES IS EVIDENCE THAT THERE WAS US INVOLVEMENT AT MONTREUX. THIS EDITORIAL ALSO NOTED WITH REGARD TO CYPRUS THAT THE OFFER OF GOOD OFFICES BY GREECE AND TURKEY SUGGESTED A DEPARTURE FROM THE CYPRIOT GOVERNMENT'S INSISTENCE THAT A SETTLEMENT BE FOUND WITHIN THE UN FRAMEWORK.
- 3. PRO-GOVERNMENT VRADYNI WROTE YESTERDAY THAT THE MEETING HAD ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE. A CLIMATE OF DETENTE HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, IT CONTINUED, BUT THE QUESTION WAS WHETHER THE SPIRIT OF DETENTE AND GOODWILL BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY AT MONTREUX WOULD BE MAINTAINED. VRADYNI AGAIN ENDORSED THE MEETING IN AN EDITORIAL TODAY BUT CRITICIZED ECEVIT FOR USING IT AS A PLATFORM FOR HIS OUTBREAK AGAINST SECRETARY VANCE. THIS EDITORIAL NOTED THAT MANY IGNORED THE FACT THE US WAS THE ONLY COUNTRY TO HAVE TAKEN ACTION AGAINST TURKEY. IT CONCLUDED BY SUGGESTING THAT PERHAPS THE SECRETARY'S UNCLASSIFIED

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PURPOSE IN MAKING HIS REMARKS HAD BEEN TO GET ECEVIT TO MAKE THE PROPOSALS HE HAS PROMISED ON CYPRUS MORE FAVORABLE.

- 4. INDEPENDENT, GOVERNMENT-SUPPORTING KATHIMERINI CALLED MONTREUX UNAVOIDABLE AND A USEFUL POINT OF DEPARTURE. IT WOULD LEAD TO A PROCEDURE, IT ADDED, THAT IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER WOULD CLARIFY RELATIONS BETWEN GREEN AND TURKEY. FINALLY, COLUMNIST GEORGE DROSSOS, WRITING IN THE SAME NEWSPAPER, CONCLUDED THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION THAT THE US WOULD LIFT THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO, THE APPARENT RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT SHOULD EASE THE AMERICAN CONSCIENCE IN THIS RESPECT SOMEWHAT.
- 5. IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS WOULD REPORT TO THE PARLIAMENT ON THE MONTREAUX SUMMIT DURING A DISCUSSION AT THE LEVEL OF PARTY LEADERS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE ON FRIDAY, MARCH 17. MCCLOSKEY

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